NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

January 27, 1997

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

CAROL FIALKOWSKI ON PANEL FOR BLUE RIBBON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Environmental Educator in Residence, **Carol Fialkowski** (Office of Environmental and Conservation Programs, ECP) has been chosen by the U.S. Department of Education to serve on the selection panel for Blue Ribbon elementary schools. The Blue Ribbon program identifies and recognizes outstanding public and private schools across the nation that are models of excellence and equity. Criteria for selection is based on "Conditions of Effective Schooling," a research model that has identified essential characteristics of successful schools. Applications are first screened at the state level. The national panel, of which Carol is a part, makes recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Education from that pool. This is the second time Carol has served on the panel -- her areas of expertise, as identified by the Department, are science and environmental education and issues affecting urban schools. Carol is the only member of the panel this year from a museum.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday January 21, 1997 was delivered by **Shannon Hackett,** Assistant Curator and Head, Division of Birds, Department of Zoology, Field Museum. Shannon described her on going studies of the molecular systematics and biogeography of the four species comprising *Manacus* (Pipridae). These species of manakins occur in Central and South America, and each species has a generally discrete distribution and only a few, narrow zones of hybridization. Shannon's analyses of molecular data documenting within species variability encountered a jumble of phylogenetic and zoogeographic relations that has as yet defied explanation. Although a very lively discussion followed Shannon's presentation, new insights into the problem were not forthcoming.

We extend our deepest sympathies to **Michael Caruthers** (Mailroom) on the death of his sister **Latrice,** on Thursday, January 23, 1997.

UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION (UNO) MEETING -- *Thanks!*

Last Saturday, January 18, the Museum hosted a regular meeting of the United Neighborhood Organization of Chicago in Simpson Theater. The event brought many families with children to the Museum, some for the first time. Over 1,000 people attended. Special self-guided materials were developed and distributed to families along with passes to the Life Over Time exhibit for that day, and free family passes to use on their next visit. Education Department staff that worked to make this a warm welcome included **Mark Alvey, Stephen Bell, Dan Brinkmeier, Lynetta Brown, Holly Lewandowski, Maureen Ransom** and **John Wagner**. Several volunteers who arrived to work on a group overnight on Friday, January 17 also pitched in to prepare packets of materials for distribution to families on Saturday.

Special thanks to **Peter Crane**, who welcomed the group on behalf of the Museum and to Melissa Hilton who helped coordinate the program. Thanks to the many staff of Visitor Services and Security who ensured that these families entered the building smoothly and that the lunches they brought with them were re-united with the owners when it was time to eat. Also thanks to Audio Visual, Housekeeping and Engineering for their assistance with the event.

Mayor's Office of Special Events

1997 Festival Dates

Sears Skate on State Ice Rink	Nov. 29, 1996 - March 2, 1997
4th Annual WinterBreak Chicago Festival	Feb. 6 - Feb. 16
Chicago Neighborhood Festivals	May - Sept.
14th Annual Chicago Blues Festival	June 5 - June 8
13th Annual Gospel Festival	June 14 - June 15
17th Annual Taste of Chicago	June 27 - July 6
7th Annual Chicago Country Music Festival	June 27 - June 28
5th Annual Race to the Taste	June 29
4th Annul Mayor's Cup Youth Soccer Fest	July 19 - July 20
40th Annual Venetian Night	July 26
39th Annual Chicago Air & Water Show	Aug. 23 - Aug. 24
19th Annual Chicago Jazz Festival	Aug. 28 - Aug. 31
9th Annual "VIVA! Chicago" Latin Music Festival	Sept. 13 - Sept. 14

(Festival dates are subject to change)

Please call the Mayor's Office of Special Events for more information at
(312) 744-3315 TTY: (312) 744-2964 www.ci.chi.il.us/WM/Special Events/
City of Chicago Richard M. Daley, Mayor

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON -- November 20, 1996

On Wednesday, November 20, 1996, The Field Museum honored the dedication of its staff members at an annual recognition luncheon for long-service employees and retirees. It is through the dedicated efforts of our staff that the Museum has accomplished so much. John McCarter, President, hosted the luncheon in the Founders' Room. Lionel Dunn from Security Services again provided impressive musical entertainment for the luncheon. Also present were staff members' guests, a department representative of the retiree, and area vice presidents. The following staff members were honored:

RETIREES

Carolyn Blackmon, Education
Margaret Curran, President's Office
Norann Miller, Zoology

45 YEARS SERVICE

Harry Nelson, Zoology/Insects

40 YEARS SERVICE

Peyton Fawcett, Library

35 YEARS SERVICE

Dorothy Roder, Tours

25 YEARS SERVICE

Ben Bronson, Anthropology
Gerry Havranek, Visitor Services

20 YEARS SERVICE

Andy Pavasars, Facilities Planning
Kenneth Grabowski, Library

15 YEARS SERVICE

Tony Valentino, Housekeeping
Nina Cummings, Photography
Barbara Novy, Anthropology
Derek McGlorthan, Security Services
Ronald Hall, Audio Visual Services

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Cap Sease, Anthropology/Conservation
Eric Frazer, Exhibits
Rodolfo Amarillas, Housekeeping
James Atkinson, Housekeeping
Nadine Kendra, Museum Affairs
Mesert Gelaw, Budget Department
Paul Brunsvold, Exhibits
Ray Leo, Exhibits

Sandra Blake, Education
Will Grewe-Mullins, Anthropology
Katie Davis, Visitor Services

UNABLE TO ATTEND

Nancy Adams, Visitor Services - Retiree
Theodore Green, Housekeeping - Retiree
Matthew Nitecki, Geology - Retiree
Ed Czerwin, Print Shop - 20 years
Bruce Patterson, Zoology/Mammals - 15 years
Dewayne Jamison, Housekeeping - 15 years
Terry Marshall, Engineering - 10 years
Carrie Hageman, Exhibits - 10 years

HONORED RETIREE
CAROLYN BLACKMON

Carolyn Blackmon retired from the Museum on July 5, 1996 after twenty-five years of distinguished service in the Education Department. The Education Department was formed in 1969, and Carolyn began soon after (June 1971) learning first-hand about recruiting and training volunteers, scheduling speakers and performers, and preparing educational materials to travel to schools in the Harris Loan Program. In 1978, Carolyn was promoted to Chair of the department. As a result of Carolyn's work and leadership, hundreds of teachers view in new ways the Museum, its exhibits, and their own teaching skills. Carolyn became a leader in museum education when that field was young and developing a national voice. Her vision has helped shape what museum education is. "Museums: Agents for Public Education," a multi-year program supported by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, focused on the public education potential of museums and it placed The Field Museum among the national leaders in visitor-focused museum education. Moreover, Carolyn's visible legacy to the Museum is substantial. The Maori Meeting House and the totem pole Big Beaver at the north entrance continue to remind staff and visitors of Carolyn's energy and dedication to the Museum and its audiences. We extend our thanks to Carolyn for her years of service to the Museum.

Thanks to John Weinstein for all photographs of the Employee Recognition Luncheon. Negative numbers are: Group Photo #88081.2; Carolyn Blackmon #88082.8; Margaret Curran #88081,7; Norann Miller #88082.2; Lionel Dunn #88082.12

HONORED RETIREE
NANCY ADAMS
(Unable to Attend)

Nancy Adams joined the Museum on November 30, 1983 as a Sales Representative for the main store. In March, 1984, she transferred to the Accounting Department where she served for three years as the Museum's Finance Cashier. Nancy then transferred to the Security Services Department to serve as an Admissions Cashier. When Security and Visitor Services was reorganized, Nancy joined the Visitor Services team where she remained as a north door cashier until her retirement in April, 1996. Nancy was a dedicated and hard worker for the thirteen years she served at the Museum. She will always be remembered as one of our top revenue generating cashiers with little or no variances in her daily cash receipts. Nancy was known for her warm personality and smile. She was well-respected and presented herself in a positive way to her colleagues. Nancy always extended a helping hand in time of need and had words of wisdom to all. Nancy often referred to herself as the "mother figure" of Visitor Services, and we can truly agree with that, simply because she always cared. We thank Nancy for her years of service to the Museum and extend our best to her in the years ahead.

HONORED RETIREE
THEODORE GREEN
(Unable to Attend)

Ted Green joined the Museum in August, 1983 in the Housekeeping Department and retired from the Museum in November, 1995. During his twelve years of serving our visitors and staff, Ted set high cleaning standards for himself and maintained these standards in his daily work assignments. Ted was knowledgeable about the many exhibits throughout the Museum, and he shared this knowledge with our visitors and staff. Ted was truly an ambassador for the department and the Museum in pursuing excellence in serving our visitors and staff. Ted worked hard to ensure that everyone would experience a clean and safe environment daily. We thank Ted for his service to the Museum.

HONORED RETIREE
MATTHEW NITECKI
(Unable to Attend)

After 31 years as Curator of Invertebrate Fossils, Matthew Nitecki retired at the end of June, 1996. Matt began his curatorial appointment in 1965 following postgraduate study at the University of Chicago, where he received his Ph.D. in 1968. His primary research interests involve the paleobiology of Paleozoic invertebrates, algae, and "problematic" fossils, as well as the history and philosophy of science. He has authored over 150 articles, and authored or edited twenty-five books and monographs, including the standard reference on the spectacular fossils of soft-bodied plants and animals from the Mazon Creek area of Illinois. One of his most lasting contributions to the Museum is surely the annual Spring Systematics Symposium, which Matt pioneered; he organized the first one in 1978 and continued as organizer through the 14th annual event in 1991. Matt's Museum colleagues have profound respect for his accomplishments. Although he is nominally retired, Matt is still very much in residence in the Geology Department. He has moved across the hall to a new office (3106) where he currently is preparing a book on paleontologist James Hall. Matt's loyalty to the Museum was a major factor in his retirement. As he told *In The Field*, "In a sense I could have stayed until I left the building holding a walking stick. But this wouldn't have been good for the Museum. They need someone who is young, aggressive and full of energy--someone with new ideas." We thank Matt for all of his years of service to the Museum.

HONORED RETIREE
MARGARET CURRAN

Margaret joined the Museum on September 2, 1986 as part of our Development staff, serving as the Secretary to the Director of Individual Giving. In September, 1990, Margaret moved to the President's Office as Administrative Assistant to the President. Margaret always displayed great respect for the work of the Museum; she was dedicated and believed in its mission. She was particularly known for her good organizational skills and her ability to work with other people. Along with her service to the Museum, Margaret was interested in helping her community through her many volunteer activities. Her life-long love of books motivated her to serve on the board of her local library. Margaret retired from the Museum on April 12, 1996. Her infectious laugh and sense of humor are missed by her friends and co-workers. We all extend our thanks to Margaret for ten years of service to the Museum and wish her the very best in the years ahead.

HONORED RETIREE
NORANN MILLER

Norann Miller retires after sixteen years of service at The Field Museum. Norann joined the Museum in August 1983 as Secretary for the Chair of Education, Carolyn Blackmon. In 1991, Norann changed directions and joined the Department of Zoology as the Administrative Assistant. In this capacity, Norann demonstrated her superior organizational and accounting skills, as well as her ability to keep the curators (especially the chairman) in line! Norann learned accounting and bookkeeping in night school. She is self-taught, however, in the use of computers, word processing, and spreadsheets. In fact, she bought and carried to work her own laptop computer in order to overcome the fiscal difficulties of the Education Department. When asked for her favorite thoughts of the Museum, she responded that she really enjoyed working with the other employees. Many of us think of Norann as our "Supermom," and on a daily basis we will miss her easy laugh and smile, her wit and cleverness. We wish her well.

FIELD MUSEUM FAN MAIL-- The Building Stands!

Dear Sir or Madam:

Some friends and I will be in Chicago for a conference in the first week in February and we made plans to visit the Field Museum. However I saw the film "The Relic" last week and couldn't help but notice that your museum sustained a tremendous amount of damage. We don't want to come if the museum is still being repaired or if we're in the way. I would appreciate knowing if you are even open yet.

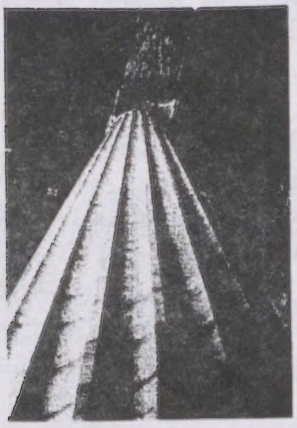
I will be anxious to hear from you. I have always enjoyed visiting the Field Museum in past visits and hope to do so again in a few weeks. You have a wonderful institution and I'm sorry for the difficulty you have been going through.

Sincerely,

XXX Minnesota

The Field Museum's reply:

Rest assured that the Museum was undamaged from all of the Hollywood pyrotechnics. We are open and look forward to your visit.



Dear Director:

I'm a 28 year old Architect from Mexico City; right now I'm studying for a Master Degree in Architectural Design right at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (U.N.A.M.).

In the past summer time, I had the opportunity to visit your great Country. I traveled from Mexico City towards Chicago in Bus, reaching some important cities, such as San Antonio, Tx; Houston, Tx; Dallas, Tx; ... and so forth. It was a real great experience!

As you can see, I'm an amateur Photographer. I love to take pictures; even one of my goals for that trip was to take a large number of snapshots. Being an amateur tells you that, from around a "million" shots, maybe one is real good.

I'm glad that the real good one was taken at your gorgeous building. Take this picture as a present and as "thank you" for your hospitality.

Have a nice day!
Gustavo Ayala

FIELD MUSEUM FAN MAIL continued

Received in the Geology Department:

Mark & Colleagues,

I wanted to thank you for the hospitality I was given at your lovely institution. It was an honor for me & my friend to receive such attentive service & detailed information regarding my great grandfather's historical event. It will be my pleasure to encourage those I know to come & tour the museum...

Sincerely, Edward McCain's great grand-daughter

Editor's note: Edward McCain's "historical event" was described in a 1951 article as follows:

> On September 29, 1938, the meteorite ... fell through his garage roof at Benld, Macoupin County, Illinois, through the roof of the automobile and the back seat cushion, through the wooden floor boards, and bounced off the muffler, lodging in the seat cushion. Now on view (with damaged parts of the automobile) in Hall 34, the 4-pound, stone meteorite was described by a witness as "sounding like an airplane going into a power dive" as it sped to earth.

PUBLIC SERVICES
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
DECEMBER 1996

JENNIFER HUTCHINSON
Housekeeping

December nominees: **Karlyn Morris-Gray**, **Sheila Spencer**, Security; **Beverly Gilliam,** Visitor Services.

Public Services congratulates the nominees and Employee of the Month for their exceptional teamwork and outstanding customer service!

SAFETY CONTINUES AT THE FIELD

Ron Cundiff (x856) of Security is currently handling the safety responsibilities previously performed by Richard Koontz.

CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS

The **Special Exhibit Hall** is nearing completion. Beginning the first week of February, the Exhibits staff will begin to set up Egg Mountain, while the contractors finish some minor work. The **Women's Board** has relocated to their new space next to the coat room (the old Membership space). Work is ongoing in the new **Visitor Services** space (old Classroom 4 on the second floor).

Traffic Alert! All staff: please be aware that there will be an Immigration and Naturalization Swearing-in ceremony for 1,000 people at the Field Museum in James Simpson Theatre at *9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 1997.* The participants will not be parking in the Museum lots; however, traffic on McFetridge Drive will be very heavy. Therefore, you may want to plan to arrive early on Tuesday to avoid delays. *Thank you for your cooperation!*